



For Immediate Release:
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NO FOOLIN' – SETTING LAST BRIDGE BEAMS IN BLAIRSVILLE

Blairsville, Ga. – “No foolin’, Georgia DOT is setting the last five bridge beams for the new SR 11/US 19 bridge over Ivy Creek on April Fool’s Day if the weather cooperates.

“Each bridge beam is custom made like a puzzle piece that only fits in one place. Each beam is 40 feet long. We expect the beams setting to start about 10 a.m. and take most of the day. Crews will weld steel panels between the beams and will the panels with concrete to take the individual beams and tie them together into one structure. The new bridge will improve safety along State Route 11 because the new bridge is higher than the original bridge, taking out that low place and improving sight distance,” explained Harold Mull, Georgia DOT District Construction Engineer.

The 0.474 mile long bridge project was awarded to Talley Construction Company, Inc. of Rossville, Georgia for a contract price of \$3,578,685.77 with a completion date of December 31, 2014.

The existing bridge was built in 1940. The new structure will include shoulders on both sides of the bridge and be built to current engineering standards improving safety for motorists.

Each year, families and college students flock to the coast between March and May to enjoy the warmth of the Georgia Springtime at the many beaches. Spring Break is upon us. Please drive alertly and cautiously and be aware that many out-of-state spring break motorists will be among us on our roadways.

Daily, hundreds of Georgia Department of Transportation employees and contractors work on dozens of highway, bridge and intersection improvements throughout the state. Their work often brings them and heavy machinery in close proximity to travel lanes. Fifty-seven Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors’ workers have been killed in highway work zone accidents since 1973. Please help us prevent these tragedies by slowing down; being especially attentive and cautious as you pass through construction work zones; and always driving responsibly. Safer Driving; Safer Work Zones; For Everyone. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](#) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and [Twitter](#) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

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